

# ICELAND | CANADA ART CONVERGENCE

[nunanow.com](http://nunanow.com)

SEPTEMBER 2-4 IN REYKJAVÍK & HOFÓS

(now)



núna

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## CURATORIAL MESSAGE

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For five years, the Curatorial Committee of the Núna (now) festival has been bringing music, theatre, film, dance and literature from Iceland and presenting it to audiences in Manitoba, Canada. Now it's time for a stunning about-face: this year, in conjunction with the LÓKAL international theater festival, we're bringing the culture of Western Iceland back to you! We've got theatre, performance and films on deck this year, as well as the magnificent Collage Party, where anyone who wants to can drop in, meet and mingle with the Núna participants, and sit down to make some art of their own.

The festival would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of our advisory Committee: Bill Perlmutter, J. Timothy Samson and Atli Ásmundsson, the Consul General of Iceland in Manitoba; nor without the generosity and confidence of our sponsors; nor without you. Many thanks to all, and enjoy the festival!

Please see [nunanow.com](http://nunanow.com) for further information on núna, the events and artists.

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## MAGUS (RE) GENESIS

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Friday, September 2, 21:30

*Iðnó*

Now (núna) will premiere the live performance of Magus (re) Genesis, a multi-format, process-based experimental film that explores the root of artistic creation. The film documents visual artist C. Graham Asmundson's body of work over a rigorous six-month period.

Filmmaker Jaimz Asmundson, Graham's son, uses cinematography and editing as magical weapons to ritualistically birth, destroy and resurrect his father's work. Through psychedelic imagery and machine-gun editing, the resulting film is a stylized, hyper-kinetic, cinematic manifestation of the Asmundsons' personal exploration of occult ceremonies and experiences. Working this uncommon practice, the father/son team explore mind-altered states and invoke unnatural resurrections; where unforeseen demons and other spiritual forces are often released.

The collaborative performance will involve Jeremy Pillipow performing the score and sound design live, while filmmaker Asmundson edits and creates live composite layers of footage using VJ programs. These will go along with another three video channels of footage that will be pre-synched together using the Video Binloop. The setup of this performance will mirror the 6-month enclosure of Asmundson's father, C. Graham Asmundson, in the "white room" during the making of the film, in which he created 4 paintings. This performance will create a full dimensional experience that will surround the viewer as the world of the film envelopes the room in a multi-channel video performance as well as expand the length of the piece to approximately 20 minutes.

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## SARGENT & VICTOR

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Friday, September 2, 21:30

*Iðnó*

Now (núna) will also premiere the production of "Sargent and Victor" by Deb Patterson, the 2010 Cultural Capitol of Canada Theatre ambassador. This new solo play is created from a series of first person accounts gathered through interviews Patterson conducted with past and present residents of the iconic Winnipeg intersection for which it is named, the early urban settlement of immigrant Icelanders. Drawn to the area by a fascination with how neighbourhoods evolve, Patterson has created a mash-up of voices and stories creating a haunting narrative infused with a potent honesty that comes from her capacity to touch difficult and often dark subject matter with humour and grace.

While Patterson, a well-known playwright and performer, collected and compiled the interviews, she kept the words as close to the original speeches as possible. "I tried to catch every intonation right down to the 'ums' and the 'you know's,'" says Patterson. "I really wanted the people's voices to come through – to give them a chance to be heard in their own words." Drawn to the area by a fascination with how neighbourhoods evolve, Patterson has collected stories and created a theatrical mash up of voices. For decades, this little patch of our city has been a refuge for people fleeing conflict and strife, arriving from all over the world. "How many tears can this tiny piece of land soak up before it becomes saturated?" asks Patterson. "What happens when that flood of anguish overtakes us? This is what I wanted to explore."

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## LOST EXPEDITIONS: THE FILMS OF MATTHEW HOLM

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**Friday, September 2, 21:30**

*Iðnó*

Winnipeg-based filmmaker Matthew Holm has been contriving his rare and precious cinematic baubles since 2000. Holm's approach to filmmaking is simple: take an established genre he loves (Arctic exploration pictures, baseball movies, dirigible films and musical westerns so far) and make his own short, poetically precise version of it, lovingly handcrafted to emphasize those aspects of the genre he is most taken with.

His first film, *The Lost Bundefjord Expedition* (2000), dramatized the first attempt to manhaul across the formidable inland ocean of Lake Winnipeg, and the tragically hilarious results garnered several awards for Holm. His second, *Spring Chickens* (2002), was based on an eerie dream, and told the uncanny tale of the Grunthal Chickens baseball team and their legendary, superannuated batsman Jam Jam Samson, played by Weakerthans singer John K. Samson.

His third picture was lost almost as soon as it was finished, so has very rarely been seen. *Zeppelin Pilot* is Holm's most spectacular and ambitious project: a WWI tale of lighter-than-air warfare from the Hun's side of things. Holm's fourth short, a commissioned work called *Man of the North-West* made to mark the thirtieth anniversary of the storied cooperative the Winnipeg Film Group, is a Mounted Police musical with entirely sung dialogue and a cast of hilarious numbskulls.

With *Caelum Vatnsdal*, Holm has directed two documentaries. *Teardrops in the Snow* (2003) is an eccentric behind-the-scenes peek into the making of Guy Maddin's biggest movie, *The Saddest Music in the World*; while *Journey to Cannibal Island* takes viewers on a perilous journey to a mysterious island in the middle of Canada.

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## PHOBOPHILIA

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**Friday, September 2, 23:00 | Saturday, September 3, 18:30, 21:00 & 22:30**

**Sunday, September 4, 15:00 & 17:30**

*Tjarnarbió, Reykjavík*

**Tuesday, September 6, 20:00**

*The Old Packhouse at the Icelandic Emigration Center, Hofsó*

Twenty-four spectators are led to a secret location to witness a peculiar interrogation. *Phobophilia* unfolds through a complex meshing of sound, action, ritual and video projection. Using its micro-cinema of Cocteau-inspired projections shown on an elaborate, ever-shifting pop-up book, *Phobophilia* is a surrealist and dreamlike examination of fear, pleasure, voyeurism and the visual archive of war.

The Montreal based transdisciplinary duo Steven Lawson and Aaron Pollard (2boys.tv) will perform *Phobophilia*, co-presented by Lokal International Theatre Festival. Inspired by Jean Cocteau and his relation to the moving image, *Phobophilia* is an exploration of the role of the poet in an age characterized by fear. A delicate and miniature performance work using a complex messing of sound, action, ritual, projection and audience participation to ruminate on the artist as catalyst to question "belonging," "citizenship" and "otherness." *Phobophilia* was presented in Winnipeg at Nuna (now) in 2008.

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## THE ISLAND

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**Saturday, September 3, 19:00 | Sunday, September 4, 18:30**

*Gamla Bíó*

The third premiere for the inaugural Now (núna) is a collaborative performance entitled The Island by Freya Olafson (Winnipeg), Arne MacPherson (Winnipeg), Ingibjörg Magnadóttir (Reykjavík) and Friðgeir Einarsson (Reykjavík). The project facilitates an artistic bridge between two distant but similar places: Iceland and Winnipeg. The project focuses on our cultural and contemporary encounters with the phenomenon of isolation and its profound personal, geographic, historical and emotional connotations. This co-production between Núna (now) and the Lokal International Theatre Festival in Iceland has been in development since May 2009 with the support of The Canada Council for the Arts, Manitoba Arts Council, the Winnipeg Arts Council and The Icelandic Ministry of Education and Culture. After the premiere in Reykjavík it will be performed in Winnipeg as part of núna (now) in May 2012.

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## COLLAGE PARTY

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**Friday, September 2 – Sunday, September 4, 11:00–23:00**

*Tjarnarbíó (Lobby)*

Tjarnargata 12, 101 Reykjavík

**Free, all welcome to drop in at any point during the weekend**

*Note: Please bring any old magazines or pictures of any kind, along with glue, scissors and any other tools or material you think may be useful.*

What is a Collage Party? The invention of Canadian artist Paul Butler, it is an opportunity for artist and civilian alike to luxuriate in a purely creative atmosphere for hours or days at a time. Materials such as magazines, paper, scissors and glue are there; music is playing; and a relaxed and social atmosphere pervades the space. Soon everyone is creating at their own pace and in their own way, and the party is on! Activities include drawing, painting, sculpting and of course collage, and as each new creation is finished and put on display, the space itself becomes first a gallery and then an installation and finally a wild and untamed large-scale group art project. But it never stops being a party.

Since 1998, Paul Butler has hosted the internationally renowned Collage Party, a traveling experimental studio he devised as a forum for ideas, inspiration, and connections with a wide range of participants. Dozens of these events have been held across North America and Europe in public museums, commercial galleries, schools, and non-profit art centers.